

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1-4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) A master information carrier according to claim 22, wherein the polymer material is formed by diluting polyimide in a solvent to prepare a polyimide solution, spin-coating the polyimide solution, and curing it with heat.

6. (previously presented) A master information carrier according to claim 15, wherein a protective film is formed on the surface of said ferromagnetic film and said non-magnetic solid material.

7. (previously presented) A master information carrier according to claim 6, wherein the protective film comprises carbon as the main component formed by sputtering.

8-9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) A master information carrier according to claim 16, wherein the cross section of said ferromagnetic film in a bit length direction of the information signals has a substantially trapezoidal shape with an upper side at the surface that is longer than a lower side on the substrate.

11. (previously presented) A master information carrier according to claim 16, wherein a protective film is formed on the surface of said substrate and said ferromagnetic film filled in the recessed portions.

12. (previously presented) A master information carrier according to claim 11, wherein said protective film comprises carbon as the main component formed by sputtering.

13-14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A master information carrier used for recording information signals on a magnetic recording medium, comprising a non-magnetic substrate; a pattern of a ferromagnetic film which is disposed on the surface of the non-magnetic substrate, the pattern being disposed in the track length direction so as to correspond to ~~an arrangement~~ uniform and non-uniform arrangements of the information signals; and a non-magnetic solid material filled in portions between respective neighboring ferromagnetic film areas composing the pattern, top surfaces of the ferromagnetic films and the non-magnetic solid material forming a substantially flat surface,

wherein the ferromagnetic film comprises a material selected from the group consisting of Co, Fe, and an alloy comprising Co or Fe as the main component, and the non-magnetic solid material is selected from the group consisting of SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Cu, Ag and an alloy comprising Cu or Ag as the main component

16. (currently amended) A master information carrier used for recording information signals on a magnetic recording medium, comprising a non-magnetic substrate having an embossed surface that forms a pattern of recessed portions, the pattern being disposed in the track length direction so as to correspond to ~~an arrangement~~ uniform and non-uniform arrangements of the information signals; and a ferromagnetic film filled in the recessed portions of the pattern, top surfaces of the non-magnetic substrate and the ferromagnetic films forming a substantially flat surface,

wherein the ferromagnetic film comprises a material selected from the group consisting of Co, Fe, and an alloy comprising Co or Fe as the main component and the non-magnetic substrate comprises a material selected from the group consisting of SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Si, and C.

17 (previously presented) A master information carrier according to claim 6, wherein the protective film has a thickness of 20 nm or less.

18. (previously presented) A master information carrier according to claim 6, wherein the protective film is electrically conductive.

19. (previously presented) A method of manufacturing a magnetic recording medium comprising: bringing the master information carrier according to claim 15 into contact with the magnetic recording medium; and applying a magnetic field, whereby the magnetic recording

medium is recorded a magnetized pattern corresponding the pattern formed on the master information carrier.

20. (previously presented) A method of manufacturing a magnetic recording medium comprising: bringing the master information carrier according to claim 16 into contact with the magnetic recording medium; and applying a magnetic field, whereby the magnetic recording medium is recorded a magnetized pattern corresponding the pattern formed on the master information carrier.

21. (previously presented) A master information carrier according to claim 11, wherein the protective film has a thickness of 20 nm or less.

22. (currently amended) A master information carrier used for recording information signals on a magnetic recording medium, comprising a non-magnetic substrate; a pattern of ferromagnetic film which is disposed on the surface of the non-magnetic substrate, the pattern being disposed in the track length direction so as to correspond to ~~an arrangement~~ uniform and non-uniform arrangements of the information signals; and a non-magnetic solid materials filled in portions between the respective neighboring ferromagnetic films areas composing the pattern, top surfaces of the ferromagnetic films and the non-magnetic solid material forming a substantially flat surface

wherein the ferromagnetic film comprises a material selected from the group consisting of Co, Fe, and an alloy comprising Co or Fe as the main component, and the non-magnetic solid material comprises a polymer material.